

CLAIMS

1. In a method of providing warning of the onset of the fertile phase of the human ovulation cycle, involving measurement in absolute or relative terms of the body fluid concentration of an analyte indicative of fertile status, the improvement that if in the current cycle a concentration measurement conducted at about the termination of menses reveals a body fluid concentration that is typical of that found in the body fluid of an average human female subject about 3 days prior to the time of ovulation during a 28-day cycle, the current cycle is immediately declared to be in its fertile phase.

2. An improved method according to claim 1, wherein said analyte is selected from the group consisting of estradiol and metabolites thereof.

3. An improved method according to claim 1, wherein the urinary concentration of estrone-3-glucuronide (E3G) is measured.

4. In a method of providing warning of the onset of the fertile phase of the human ovulation cycle, involving measurement in absolute or relative terms of the urinary concentration of E3G, the improvement that the fertile phase is declared immediately if an E3G measurement conducted at about the termination of menses reveals a concentration equal to or greater than a threshold concentration chosen in the range of about 25 to about 35 ng/ml.

5. An improved method according to claim 4, wherein said E3G concentration measurement is conducted on at least one of numerical days 4 to 7 of the current cycle, counting from the onset of menses.

6. In a method of monitoring the fertility status of the mammalian ovulation cycle, involving determining a change in the body fluid concentration of an analyte the concentration of which alters as the fertile phase of the cycle approaches and wherein a concentration measurement is made during the interval spanning days 4 to 8 of the current cycle, the improvement that if the measurement reveals a concentration level at least equal to that expected about 3 days prior to the time of ovulation, based on measurements taken in one or more previous cycles in the same individual, the onset of the fertile phase is declared immediately.

7. An improved method according to claim 6 applied to the human ovulation cycle, which method involves determining a change in the body fluid concentration of an analyte selected from the group consisting of estradiol and metabolite thereof.

8. An improved method according to claim 7, wherein said analyte is E3G.

9. In a method of monitoring the fertility status of the human ovulation cycle, involving determining a change in the urinary concentration of E3G during the early part of the cycle as a warning of the onset of the fertile phase, and wherein the E3G concentration is measured in relative or absolute terms on or about day 6 of the current cycle, the improvement that if the E3G concentration on or about day 6 of the current cycle is at least equal to the concentration attained in the same individual about 3 days prior to the time of ovulation during one or more previous cycles, the onset of the fertile phase in the current cycle is declared immediately.